GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3796
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
TELECOM SERVICES IN REMOTE AREAS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have entered into an agreement with the Department of Posts in order to provide telecom services to the subscribers in far-flung areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) Sir, an MOU was signed between BSNL and Department of Posts on 3rd December 2002 for launching Gramin Sanchar Sewak Scheme (GSS) on experimental basis throughout the country except in Andman & Nicobar, Haryana and Punjab Telecom circles. Under the scheme, telephone facility was provided to remote villages through GSSs who carry fixed wireless terminals (FWT) with display unit in a carry bag and visit door to door to provide facility to the rural population in his routine beat. Presently, 11,887 villages are being covered by 2,686 GSSs throughout the country.

MTNL have not signed any agreement with Department of Posts for providing telecom services to the subscribers of far-flung areas. However, MTNL Delhi unit and Department of Posts have signed MoU alongwith an agreement for delivery of telephone bills and MTNL Mumbai unit is utilizing Bill Mail service from Department of Posts. Department of Posts has permitted Bill Mail service for MTNL Telephone Bill in Mumbai for a period of one month (April 2008).